

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2888

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GE

SUBJECT: REICHSBAHN ANNOUNCES FURTHER S-BAHN ECONOMY MEASURES

REF: USBERLIN 1352

1. REICHSBAHN HAS ANNOUNCED SECOND SET OF ECONOMY MEASURES DESIGNED TO CUT S-BAHN DEFICIT IN WEST BERLIN. AGAIN RELYING ON POSTERS PUT UP OVERNIGHT IN INDIVIDUAL TRAIN STATIONS AND ESCHEWING ANY ADVANCE WARNING TO SENAT, S-BAHN ADVISED CUSTOMERS JULY 30 THAT BEGINNING AUGUST 2 MOST LINES WOULD PROVIDE SERVICE EVERY TEN MINUTES ONLY DURING MORNING AND LATE AFTERNOON RUSH HOURS. TRAINS WOULD RUN AT 20 MINUTE INTERVALS AT OTHER TIMES OF DAY. NO ROUTES ARE TO BE ABANDONED, BUT REROUTINGS MAY SLIGHTLY LENGTHEN SOME ROUTES. MEASURES FOLLOW TICKET PRICE HIKE AND CUT IN EVENING

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SERVICE PUT INTO FORCE JULY 1 (REFTEL). SENAT EXPERTS

BELIEVE REICHSBAHN IS IMPLEMENTING MULTI-STAGE ECONOMY PLAN AND DO NOT FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY THAT FURTHER REDUCTIONS OF SOME SORT WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN NOT DISTANT FUTURE. MEASURES ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK PRESUMABLY ARE DESIGNED TO REDUCE ELECTRICITY COSTS AND PERMIT S-BAHN TO OPERATE WITH FEWER PERSONNEL.

2. SPOESMEN FOR SENAT CHANCELLERY AND FOR SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT REICHSBAHN HAS RESPONSIBILITY AS WELL AS RIGHT TO PROVIDE SERVICE, BUT THEY HAVE STOPPED SHORT OF ALLEGING THAT THESE MEASURES GO BEYOND ROUTINE ECONOMY STEPS THAT REICHSBAHN WOULD BE ENTITLED TO TAKE. SENAT SPOKESMEN HAVE NOTED THAT MODIFIED S-BAHN SCHEDULE COMPARES NOT UNFAVORABLY TO SIMILAR SERVICES AVAILABLE IN FRG. SENAT SPOKESMEN HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT ALLIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT REICHSBAHN MEETS ITS OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. CHAIRMAN ALLIED PRESS SPOKESMAN (UK) SAID JULY 30 THAT ALLIES WERE WATCHING SITUATION CLOSELY BUT SAW NO OCCASION TO INTERVENE AT PRESENT TIME. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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